

## CHARTER

### Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee U.S. Geological Survey

1. **Official Designation:** Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC).
2. **Scope and Objectives:** The Advisory Committee is established pursuant to the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-503), that states "The Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall advise the Director on matters relating to the United States Geological Survey's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including the United States Geological Survey's roles, goals and objectives within that program, its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishing and measuring performance goals."
3. **Duties of the Committee:** The duties of the Advisory Committee are solely advisory and are described in paragraph 2 above.
4. **Agency or Official to whom the Committee Reports:** The Advisory Committee shall issue an annual report to the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for submission to Congress on or before September 30 of each year. The report shall describe the Advisory Committee's activities and address policy issues or matters that affect the USGS' participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.
5. **Bureau Responsible for providing necessary support:** The USGS will be responsible for administrative support to the Advisory Committee and for providing the necessary technical support required by the Committee. The Earthquake Hazards Program Manager shall serve as the Designated Federal Officer in accordance with Section 10(e) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
6. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs:** Annual costs for the Advisory Committee are estimated to be \$50,000, including all direct and indirect expenses. Staff support will require 0.2 of an FTE. Public Law 106-503 authorizes \$100,000 annual operation costs for the Committee.
7. **Estimated number and frequency of meetings:** Two to three meetings per year.
8. **Membership:** The Director of the USGS shall establish procedures for selection of individuals not employed by the Federal Government who are qualified in the seismic sciences and other appropriate fields and may, pursuant to such procedures, select up to 10 individuals, one of whom shall be designated Chairman, to serve on the Advisory Committee. Selection of individuals for the Advisory Committee shall be based solely on the established records of distinguished service, and the Director shall ensure that a reasonable cross-section of views and expertise is represented. Individuals will be appointed as subject matter experts in relevant aspects of earthquake science and risk reduction. In selecting individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee, the Director shall seek and give due consideration to recommendations

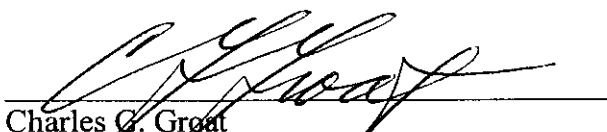
from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations. Representation will be selected from the following societies and organizations: Geological Society of America, Seismological Society of America, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Professional Geologists, American Geophysical Union, and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. Term of membership may be staggered to ensure continuity in the procedures of the Advisory Committee. The Program Manager of the Earthquake Hazards Program of the USGS shall serve as Executive Secretary for the Committee. All members will be appointed as Special Government Employees.

9. **Ethics Obligations of Members:** All members will comply with applicable ethics rules and regulations. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to members explaining their ethical obligations. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Committee's operations, activities, or advice. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

10. **Allowances for Committee Members:** All Advisory Committee members are expected to serve without compensation. Advisory Committee members and staff members, while engaged in the performance of their duties away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of Title 5, United States Code, for persons employed intermittently in the Government service.

11. **Termination Date:** We expect the Committee to continue into the near future. However, the Advisory Committee is subject to the provisions of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2 and shall take no action unless the Charter filing requirements of section 9 of FACA have been complied with. The Committee is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, the Charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of FACA.

12. **Authority:** Public Law 106-503, November 13, 2000.

  
Charles G. Groat  
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

MARCH 29, 2004  
Date Signed

**MAR 30 2004**

Date Filed